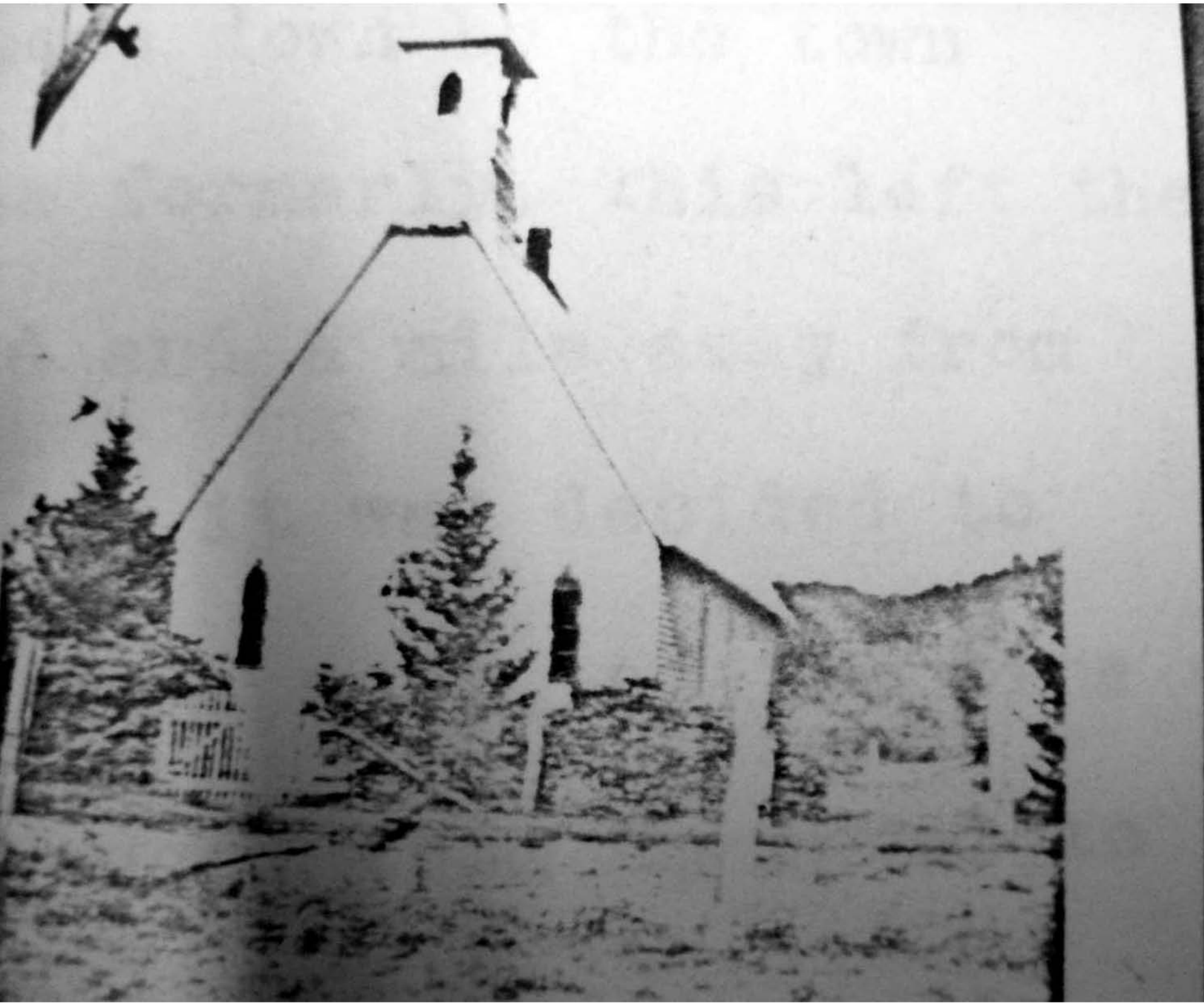

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
March 12, 1941
Chapter 5 Religion

GRACE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH--Clover Lick

In 1880 a plan was inaugerated to build a church at Clover Lick, and through the zealous efforts of Mrs. John Ligon it was so carried out that on Sunday August 21, 1882 we were able to consecrate a neet and comfortable building as Emmanuel Church. This church was on the Ligon farm and was about one mile from its present location.

For years there was no regular Rector, Clergy from different sections of the Diocese visited the church at regular intervals. Dr. I. H. Lacy from Lewisburg being the most frequent visitor. Bishop George Peterkin came once a year for confirmations.

By 1908 the lumber town of Clover Lick has been built and the county road was changed to come down by the town instead of going by the Ligon home as formerly. This left the church quite a distance from the road and a mile away from where the most of its members lived, so it was decided to move the church. Through an error of some sort, at the time of removal of the church the name was changed from Emmanuel to Grace.

Mr. W. C. Gardner of Baltimore moved to the community in 1907 and being a member of the Episcopal church took an active part in the work and was Lay Leader from that time until his death in 1934. During the time Mr. Gardner was leader in the church, there was an excellent attendance at Sunday School, and all church services.

Aside from the Gardner family, the members of this church has been the children of Dr. and Mrs. John Ligon, and their families. At the present time three of their daughters Mrs. Louisa Coyner, Mrs. Annette Coyner and Mrs. Georgia King, are among the leading members of the church. Mrs. Gardner is one of the main financial supporters as well as a teacher.

Mrs. Georgia King carved the crosses for the church, and they are very beautifully carved.

From--Mrs. Annette Coyner and Mrs. Louisa Coyner.

This church at Clover Lick and St. Johns Protestant Episcopal church at Marlinton are the only two Episcopal churches in the county, and they have only a small membership.

(This is confidential, but their complete refusal to cooperate with other denominations has been one of the chief reasons why the church here at Clover Lick has not grown as it should have. They let others attend their church, but they will not go to the Union Church here even for a funeral.)

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This history of the Slaty Fork church was written for me by Ivan L. Sharp, a leading member of the church.